

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 JUSE-00 NSAE-00

SNM-02 SY-05 TRSE-00 USIA-06 NSC-05 OES-03 OMB-01

SS-15 HEW-02 DODE-00 AID-05 L-02 /076 W

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R 041213Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5363

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

DEA HQ WASHDC

USMISSION GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L THE HAGUE 1126

EMBASSIES ALSO FOR DEA

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SNAR, NL

SUBJ: DRUG ENFORCEMENT IN THE NETHERLANDS: NEW HORIZONS

REF: HAGUE 0428; HAGUE A-017

1. ON FEB 25 DEA SAIC AND EMBOFF CALLED ON DIRECTOR GEN OF POLICE FONTEIJN, WHO ACCOMPANIED JUSTIC MINISTER VAN AGT TO US IN JANUARY. FONTEIJN EXPRESSED SATISFACTION WITH US VISIT AND ADMIRATION FOR US APPROACH TO COMBATTING ILLICIT DRUG TRAFFIC. MIN JUSTICE HAS DEVELOPED IDEAS FOR CREATION OF DUTCH CENTRAL NARCOTICS UNIT WHICH, HE SAID, WOULD BORROW FROM CONCEPTS OF BOTH DEA AND SCOTLAND YARD.

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2. FONTEIJN SAID ORIGINAL INTENT WAS TO PLACE WHOLE OF

PROPOSED SPECIAL UNIT WITHIN HIS DEPARTMENT. HOWEVER, IT WOULD PROBABLY BE NECESSARY, FOR INTERNAL POLITICAL REASONS, TO DECENTRALIZE THE UNIT'S OPERATIONS SOMEWHAT BY ESTABLISHING BRANCH OFFICE AT EACH (OF FIVE) LOCATIONS WHERE STATE PROSECUTORS ARE SITED. "DECENTRALIZED" MODEL WOULD CALL FOR ROUGHLY EQUAL STAFFS OF ABOUT A DOZEN MEN PER OFFICE, INCLUDING CENTRAL HQ OFFICE. NEW UNIT'S FUNCTION WOULD BE ESSENTIALLY INVESTIGATIVE. REGULAR POLICE FORCES OF RESPECTIVE JURISDICTIONS WOULD STILL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR CARRYING OUT PARTICULAR ENFORCEMENT OPERATIONS ACTIONS. IN GATHERING INTELLIGENCE AND CARRYING OUT OTHER DUTIES ASSIGNED IT, HOWEVER, UNIT'S PERSONNEL WOULD OPERATE FREELY WITHIN WHOLE OF COUNTRY, INCLUDING WITHIN THOSE MUNICIPALITIES WHICH ARE NOW, IN PRACTICE, EXCLUSIVE DOMAIN OF MUNICIPAL POLICE FORCES. AS EXAMPLE OF SCOPE WHICH NEW UNIT WOULD HAVE, FONTEIJN SAID IT WOULD BE AUTHORIZED TO INTERVIEW DUTCH NATIONALS ARRESTED AND DETAINED ABROAD ON NARCOTICS CHARGES TO OBTAIN INFO ON NARCOTICS SOURCES, ROUTES, ETC. (FYI: THE EXISTING "DRUG UNIT" IN FONTEIJN'S ORGANIZATION, CRI (CENTRALE RECHERCHEINFORMATIEDIENST), IS LITTLE MORE THAN A CENTRAL CRIMINAL RECORDS OFFICE. END FYI)

3. FONTEIJN SAID STAFFING NEW UNIT COULD POSE SOMEWHAT OF A DILEMMA. ON ONE HAND, IT MAY BE NECESSARY TO OFFER AN INDUCEMENT IN FORM OF HIGHER SALARY AND CORRESPONDING RANK IN ORDER TO ENCOURAGE QUALIFIED PERSONNEL NOW SERVING IN SMALLER MUNICIPALITIES TO APPLY FOR JOBS IN LESS DESIRABLE LOCATIONS (I.E. IN LARGER CITIES). SUCH "PROMOTIONS," HOWEVER, COULD ALSO BE DISTURBING FACTOR IN RELATIONS BETWEEN COLLEAGUES IN VARIOUS POLICE DEPARTMENTS AND IN NEW UNIT, AS IT WOULD CONSTITUTE AN EXCEPTION IN COMPENSATION SYSTEM WHICH IS PRESENTLY UNIFORM FOR ALL POLICE DEPARTMENTS THROUGHOUT COUNTRY.

4. ACCORDING TO AN INDEPENDENT SOURCE, A MEETING BETWEEN FONTEIJN AND PUBLIC PROSECUTORS, DURING WHICH VARIOUS AVAILABLE ALTERNATIVES WERE EXPLORED, WAS HELD FRIDAY, FEB 28. SAME SOURCE STATED ANNOUNCEMENT OF NEW UNIT'S CREATION IS IMMINENT. (NOTE: PLEASE PROTECT CONTENTS THIS PARA.)

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5. EMBASSY COMMENT: SEEDS PLANTED BY EMBASSY HERE AND BY OTHER USG OFFICIALS DURING VISIT OF JUSTICE MINISTER HAVE GERMINATED. JUSTICE MINISTER AND PARTY APPEAR TO HAVE BEEN IMPRESSED BY LEVEL OF COOPERATION AND COORDINATION THEY OBSERVED BETWEEN DEA OFFICERS AND OFFICERS OF NYPD, AND ARE HOPEFUL THAT THEIR OWN DRUG UNIT WILL WORK AS HARMONIOUSLY WITH MUNICIPAL POLICE DEPARTMENTS. INDEED, THEY SEEM TO

BE COUNTING OF IT, FOR SUCH COOPERATION WILL BE INDISPENSABLE IF PROPOSED UNIT, WITH ITS LIMITED AUTHORITY (I.E. INVESTIGATIVE ONLY), IS TO HAVE THE DESIRED IMPACT. RESULTS WILL LARGELY DEPEND ON HOW EFFECTIVELY THE SPECIAL UNIT'S INVESTIGATIVE WORK IS FOLLOWED UP BY APPROPRIATE ENFORCEMENT OPERATIONS BY MUNICIPAL POLICE UNITS. (OF COURSE, OUTSIDE LARGER CITIES, WHERE STATE POLICE HAVE ORIGINAL ENFORCEMENT JURISDICTION, THERE IS NO REASON WHY NEW DRUG UNIT CANNOT WORK EFFECTIVELY WITH ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS, GIVEN NECESSARY GUIDANCE FROM HEADQUARTERS.) SUCH FOLLOW-UP CLEARLY IMPLIES THAT MUNICIPAL AUTHORITIES IN LARGER CITIES WILL HAVE TO MATCH CENTRAL GOVERNMENT'S ACTION WITH ADEQUATE INCREASES IN THEIR OWN DRUG ENFORCEMENT RESOURCES. ACCORDING TO FONTEIJN, MINISTRY OF JUSTICE IS DISPOSED TO CONSIDER FAVORABLY REQUESTS FROM MUNICIPAL AUTHORITIES FOR SUCH ADDITIONAL RESOURCES. DOMESTIC PUBLIC OPINION THEREFORE BECOMES AN IMPORTANT ELEMENT IN EQUATION, AS IT WILL SHAPE THE RESOLVE WITH WHICH MUNICIPAL AUTHORITIES TAKE UP CENTRAL GOVERNMENT'S CHALLENGE TO TACKLE DRUG TRAFFIC PROBLEM IN EARNEST. MISSION WILL CONTINUE TO WORK COLOSELY WITH APPROPRIATE GON AND MEDIA ELEMENTS SO AS TO FOSTER A HIGHER LEVEL OF PUBLIC AWARENESS OF DRUG PROBLEM, A BETTER PUBLIC UNDERSTANDING OF COMPLEX ISSUES INVOLVED, AND A CLEARER PERCEPTION OF POSSIBLE CONSEQUENCES OF INACTION.

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